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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Chen et al. Art Unit: 1632  
Serial No.: 09/175,683 Examiner: Richard Schnizer  
Filed : October 20, 1998  
Title : *Novel Modified Nucleic Acid Sequences and Methods for Increasing mRNA Levels and Protein Expression in Cell Systems*

DEC 13 1999

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

November 30, 1999  
Date of Signature and  
of Mail Deposit

By: Anne M. Guerra  
Anne Guerra

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 18, line 27, please insert --SEQ ID NO:9-- before the term ", MSP204".

At page 18, line 30, please insert --SEQ ID NO:10-- before the phrase ", which encode the 15 amino acid".

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 13 and amend claim 12 as follows: